

EXHIBIT NO.

7

DATE:

3-22-2011

BILL NO.

SJ 16

OUTLINE OF POINTS—SJ 16

BY CB McMillan

History of North Coast Hiawatha- Idaho Spokesman Review

Warren Buffet and Berkshire-Hathaway Corp.

BNSF Chairman,CEO and President: Matt Rose

Foreign Oil and America:

Efficiency of Passenger Rail:

Benefits of Passenger Rail:

1. Peoples lives
2. Support of local business
3. Increased tourism
4. Jobs

PASSENGER RAIL MUST BE MADE A NATIONAL PRIORITY IN AMERICA



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SJ-16 Comments

March 20, 2011

The Honorable Llew Jones, Chair
Senate Highways and Transportation Committee
Montana State Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jones and members of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee,

I write in support of SJ-16, and I regret that I am unable to attend the hearing. Passenger rail has a long history in the state of Montana. The Empire Builder continues to play a key role in the lives of those who live along Montana's Hi-Line. It's an important component of Montana's economy, provides transportation to a region without major airports, and needs to remain firmly in place.

Unfortunately, as you're well aware, southern Montana has been without Amtrak service for over thirty years. As a result, airlines face little competition, and folks who can't drive or afford to fly oftentimes simply don't travel. Amtrak's 2009 feasibility study of restoring the North Coast Hiawatha affirms the economic benefits of resuming Amtrak service to southern Montana. As we endeavor to build a 21st century economy in Montana, it is vital that we ensure transportation connections within our state and beyond our borders, and passenger rail is an important piece of our strategy.

SJ-16 ensures that Montanans play a proactive role in the future of passenger rail for our state, which is critical since expansion of passenger rail in Montana depends on strong collaboration between both the state and federal government. This joint resolution keeps the discussion alive, and demonstrates to our congressional delegation that the Montana legislature is committed to exploring ways to sustain and enhance passenger rail options for Montanans.

Thanks for considering my comments, and I urge you to support SJ-16.

Sincerely,

Dave Strohmaier
Missoula City Council, Ward 1



MISSOULA

MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

March 9, 2011

The Honorable Llew Jones, Chair
Senate Highways and Transportation Committee
Montana State Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jones and Honorable Members of the Highways and Transportation Committee:

I'm writing today asking you to support Senate Joint Resolution 16, *Requesting an Interim Study on Expanding Passenger Rail Service in Montana*. We support SJ 16 and believe that this bill would be clearly beneficial to the public interest.

The Missoula City Council has adopted several resolutions in recent years urging the re-establishment of Amtrak's North Coast Hiawatha route through southern Montana while preserving the current Empire Builder route across the Hi-line.

Commercial air service is expensive and unavailable in many smaller communities in Montana. Re-establishing Amtrak service through southern Montana would link major cities and smaller towns, facilitating travel and commerce throughout the southern part of the state and beyond our borders. Amtrak's service in northern Montana is also an important component of travel and commerce to the communities through which it runs.

Please give SJ 16 your favorable consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I appreciate your service to your constituents and the State of Montana. If I may address questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ed Childers

President, Missoula City Council and eight other members including:

Dave Strohmaier and Jason Wiener, Ward 1
Pam Walzer and Cynthia Wolken, Ward 2
Bob Jaffe, Ward 3
Jon Wilkins and Lyn Hellegaard, Ward 4
Marilyn Marler, Ward 6

cc: Missoula Delegation
Montana League of Cities and Towns
Gallatin Public Affairs



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